

North Carolina State Library  
Raleigh

[ 17 ]

I give my land two, and occasionally three, thorough breakings, run rows three feet three inches, and put in drill 700 to 800 pounds of commercial fertilizer to the acre; throw two furrows on fertilizer, but do not split middle. I do not believe in using stable manure, unless composted with dirt early in the spring, so as to give the manure time to decompose. I want a good, strong plant, set about thirty-three inches apart in drill. I set by both hand transplanter, according to season, dry or wet. Not later than ten days I take the common side harrow that we use for cotton, and harrow close and deep. This splits the middle I left when I listed my ground and leaves the tobacco on a low, flat ridge, tapering from plant to center of row. I use the harrow in place of turn plow, because behind the harrow a hand can hoe one-third more tobacco than behind the turn plow. I also save one entire plowing. If you bar with turn plow you have to come back at once and side with cotton plow and split the middle, so one can easily see that the harrow saves one plowing. Ten days to two weeks after I take cotton plow, short mole boards and big fronts, and plow deep; split middles with next size mole boards. Two weeks after plow again with middle size mole board. Two weeks after plow the same way, split middles with longer mole boards. This is usually the amount of my plowing. As to hoeing the crop, I consider that to be of the most importance. Hoe every time until that last time, deep. Hoe after every plowing. Hoe deep, thoroughly pulverize the ground, pull dirt caked around the plant away, and pull fresh dirt around stalk up to leaves. This is important. It will keep stalk from getting hard and buttoning too soon. When plant is of sufficient size to bear it, pull off all bottom or plant bed leaves, but be sure and pull dirt up around plant to the leaves left. Topping you must use your own judgment. Look at the plant; you know what your land ought to do. I frequently top twice; that is, top once and the next week top the plant lower, but on the whole I believe in topping rather high. You must keep worms and suckers off. I have had no experience with Paris green or other insect destroyers.

Respectfully,

BENJAMIN MAY.

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WASHINGTON, N. C., April 27, 1898.

*Mr. O. L. Joyner, Greenville, N. C.:*

DEAR SIR:—In reply to yours of recent date, asking for our views on selecting plant land, preparing, fertilizing, etc., we take pleasure in giving you our experience. We usually select two kinds of land, one, a rich moist bottom or branch, the other, good open soil on hill side or level land, both well drained. After selecting the place we clean away all rubbish, and pile on plenty of any kind of dry wood to thoroughly burn the land. We then rake the coals off and what ashes the rake will take along with them. To each 100 square yards of land we spread very carefully about 20 bushels of fine hog pen or horse stable manure.